

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-05  
SIG-02 SSO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /074 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MKBERRY:RGH  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)  
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA - MS. GRIFFIN  
NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

-----110041Z 115621 /66

O 102249Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
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AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USCINCEUR

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD; NATO FOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MARCH 10

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS  
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MARCH 10,  
1977:

Q. IS IT STILL THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION IN THE MIDDLE  
EAST THAT ISRAEL SHOULD WITHDRAW TO '67 BORDERS WITH  
INSUBSTANTIAL ALTERATIONS?

A. LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY: THE PRESIDENT ADDRESSED THAT  
SUBJECT IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS YESTERDAY. I DON'T THINK I  
COULD ADD ANYTHING TO WHAT HE SAID ON THE SUBJECT OF  
BORDERS YESTERDAY OR AMERICAN EFFORTS WITH REGARD TO THE  
MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS. I THINK HE SET OUT THE LATEST  
THINKING ON THE SUBJECT, UNDERLINING THAT WE ARE CERTAINLY  
GOING TO MOUNT A MAJOR EFFORT IN 1977 TO BRING THE PARTIES  
TO GENEVA AND WE ARE NOT EVIDENCING ANY PREDISPOSITION  
TOWARD WHAT MIGHT BE THE ULTIMATE DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT.  
SO THAT REALLY REFERS TO THE QUESTION--AMONG OTHERS--OF  
BORDERS. I DON'T THINK I CAN ADD MUCH TO WHAT HE SAID  
YESTERDAY.

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Q. HAVE YOU HAD ANY REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION FROM ANY  
OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE NEGOTIATION?

A. NO. I SAY SINCE THIS WAS JUST SAID YESTERDAY, I HAVE  
NO IDEA WHETHER THERE'S BEEN ANY REQUEST FOR  
CLARIFICATION.

Q. SINCE YOU SAY WE ARE NOT EVIDENCING ANY PREDISPOSI-  
TION --

A. WELL, THE PRESIDENT SAID, "I AM NOT TRYING TO PREDIS-  
POSE OUR OWN NATION'S ATTITUDE TOWARD WHAT MIGHT BE THE  
ULTIMATE DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT." THOSE WERE HIS  
PRECISE WORDS.

Q. THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER, MR. RABIN, LAST  
NIGHT, IN AN ON-THE-RECORD INTERVIEW WITH THE ISRAELI  
RADIO IN MIAMI, REACTING TO THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT,

SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD YESTERDAY FOLLOWING THE PRESS CONFERENCE FROM WHAT HE CALLED "STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS" THAT THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT ARAB LEADERS MIGHT BE UPSET ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS ON THE DEFENSE LINES BEING BEYOND THE SOVEREIGNTY LINES. COULD YOU CONFIRM THAT THERE IS SUCH A CONCERN HERE IN THIS BUILDING ABOUT ARAB REACTION TO WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID?

A. NO, I'M NOT PREPARED TO CONFIRM THAT OR REALLY TO OFFER ANY COMMENT AT THIS TIME ON WHAT MR. RABIN SAID. I HAVEN'T, IN ANY EVENT, SEEN THE TEXT TO WHICH YOU'RE REFERRING; BUT I'M CERTAINLY NOT IN A POSITION TO OFFER ANY COMMENT ON THAT.

Q. THE ARAB INFORMATION CENTER IN WASHINGTON, THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY, ISSUED A STATEMENT AND SAID IN IT THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE ARAB AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON WERE ASKING AN URGENT MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION. HAS THERE BEEN SUCH A MEETING?

A. THERE HASN'T BEEN AS YET. THEY HAVE ASKED FOR A MEETING, AND IT CERTAINLY WILL TAKE PLACE. I DON'T HAVE A TIME OR DATE FOR YOU.

Q. WILL IT BE A MEETING WITH ALL OF THEM TOGETHER?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHAT AMBASSADORS WOULD BE INVOLVED, BUT THEY DID ASK TO COME IN. YOU KNOW, THEY HAVE COME IN ON A REGULAR BASIS, AND THEY WILL BE RECEIVED VERY SHORTLY.

Q. AND THEY WILL BE RECEIVED SHORTLY?

A. SHORTLY.

Q. SHORTLY. I DON'T HAVE A TIME.

Q. TODAY?

A. I DON'T BELIEVE IT'S TODAY, BUT THEY WILL BE RECEIVED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

Q. WHAT WAS THE POINT, PURPOSE OR NATURE OF THE MEETING THE SECRETARY HAD LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON WITH THE LEADERS OF JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS?

A. THAT MEETING HAD BEEN SCHEDULED SEVERAL DAYS AGO, AND IT WAS A MEETING THAT TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT

THE PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS WERE HERE IN WASHINGTON FOR LUNCH YESTERDAY; AND THIS IS ONE OF MANY MEETINGS THAT THE SECRETARY HAS HAD -- THIS SECRETARY AND SECRETARY KISSINGER -- WITH THAT GROUP. SO WE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THEIR PRESENCE HERE TO HAVE THIS UNCLASSIFIED

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MEETING. IT WAS SCHEDULED SEVERAL DAYS AGO.

Q. BUT WHAT WAS THE POINT, PURPOSE OR NATURE OF THE MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE LAST NIGHT?

A. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS -- EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

Q. IS THAT ALL YOU CAN SAY ABOUT IT -- THEY JUST EXCHANGED VIEWS?

A. WELL, I THINK THAT'S ALL THAT NEEDS TO BE SAID. OBVIOUSLY, IT'S A GROUP THAT THE DEPARTMENT WISHES TO STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH.

Q. IF YOU SAID IT I MISSED IT. WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THE REQUEST FROM THE ARAB AMBASSADORS TO SEE THE SECRETARY?

A. I DIDN'T SAY THE PURPOSE. THE QUESTION WAS: "HAVE THEY REQUESTED TO COME IN?" AND I CONFIRMED THAT THEY HAD AND THAT THE MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE SHORTLY, BUT I COULDN'T BE PRECISE AS TO WHAT DAY.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY ARAB AMBASSADORS, YOU MEAN THEN THAT FIVE OR SIX MIGHT COME IN, OR DO YOU MEAN THE WHOLE LOT OF THEM? BECAUSE THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM.

A. I DON'T KNOW.

Q. WILL THIS MEETING INCLUDE ONLY THE ARAB AMBASSADORS OR THE MUSLIM AMBASSADORS -- THE REQUEST TO MEET THE SECRETARY?

A. IT WAS CONVEYED TO ME IN TERMS OF THE ARAB AMBASSADORS BECAUSE THIS WAS FROM, I THINK, YESTERDAY OR THE DAY BEFORE -- OR YESTERDAY -- WHEN THE QUESTION AROSE ABOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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WHETHER OR NOT THEY WOULD COME IN. SO I RECALL IT WAS IN

THE CONTEXT OF ARAB AMBASSADORS.

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## Message Attributes

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